

Attorney Docket 57557US004
U.S.S.N. 10/501,251

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated March 21, 2006, claims 1-8, 10-12 and 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of WO 01/25077 (corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 6,748,993 to Shinozaki et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 6,585,023 to Azuhata. Claim 25 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but as otherwise reciting allowable subject matter.

Shinozaki et al. disclose an adhesive tape applicator 1 comprising first and second holding pieces 3 and 4, an elastic roller 9a mounted to the first holding piece 3 for applying an adhesive tape T to a door sash frame F and a grip 6 coupled to the second holding piece 4 via slide shafts 5. The second holding piece 4, the grip 6 and the slide shafts 5 move relative to the first holding piece 3. A tape supply guide 12 is positioned opposite a pressing side of the elastic roller 9a. A swingable plate 13a is provided to prevent the tape T from falling out of the guide 12, see column 5, lines 11-13. The tape T is shown as having a constant width in Figs. 9 and 1i.

Azuhata discloses a tape holder comprising a tape guide plate 11, a tape attacher comprising a pressure roller 12 and a jig guide member comprising rollers 26. The adjustable mechanism associated with the jig guide member comprises a sub-frame 20, guide rods 22 and springs 25. The tape holder adjustable mechanism comprises the spring-biased sub-frame 20. The adjustable mechanism associated with the pressure roller 12 comprises the spring-biased sub-frame 20 and the rollers 26 mounted to the sub-frame 20. As noted in column 6, lines 36-44, the rollers 26 engage a window frame 3. An adhesive tape Ta is applied to the window frame 3. Azuhata further teaches in column 7, lines 63-66 "[t]herefore, the interval between the first guide roller 17 and the second guide roller 26 is likely to be wider than the width of the adhesive tape Ta actually applied by the pressure roller 12." Hence, the spring-biased sub-frame 20 and guide rollers 26 follow the width of the window frame 3 and not the width of the tape Ta.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part:

said tape attacher adjustable mechanism comprises an adjustable mechanism for matching the width of the adhesive tape

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As noted in the March 21, 2006 Office Action, Shinozaki et al. do not disclose a tape attacher adjustable mechanism, as set out in claim 1.

Azuhata fails to disclose, teach or suggest a tape attacher adjustable mechanism for matching the width of an adhesive tape, as recited in claim 1. Instead, Azuhata discloses a spring-biased sub-frame 20 having rollers 26 which engage the window frame 3 to which the tape Ta is attached. As noted above, Azuhata further discloses that the tape is narrower than the interval between the guide rollers 17 and 26. These teachings clearly indicate that the rollers 17, 26 do not match the width of the tape Ta. Since both Shinozaki et al. and Azuhata lack a teaching of a tape attacher adjustable mechanism comprising an adjustable mechanism for matching the width of an adhesive tape, even if one skilled in the art were motivated to combine the teachings of Shinozaki et al. and Azuhata, which is denied, the resulting tape applicator would lack a tape attacher adjustable mechanism comprising an adjustable mechanism for matching the width of an adhesive tape.

As noted above, the tape T shown in Figs. 9 and 11 of the Shinozaki et al. patent has a constant width. Accordingly, there is no need to replace the fixed-width supply guide 12 in the Shinozaki et al. device with a tape attacher adjustable mechanism comprising an adjustable mechanism for matching the width of an adhesive tape.

Finally, Azuhata provides no motivation to modify the Shinozaki et al. device to include a tape attacher adjustable mechanism comprising an adjustable mechanism for matching the width of an adhesive tape. First, Azuhata does not disclose, teach or suggest a tape attacher adjustable mechanism comprising an adjustable mechanism for matching the width of an adhesive tape. Instead, Azuhata discloses guide rollers 26 that engage a window frame 3 to which a tape Ta is applied. Second, Azuhata teaches that the tape Ta is narrower than the distance between the guide rollers 17 and 26.

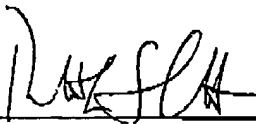
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For these reasons, it is submitted that claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-21 and 25 define patentably over the Shinozaki et al. and Azuhata patents. Accordingly, it is submitted that the above referenced §103 rejection should be withdrawn and this case allowed.

Early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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